

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 901

By Johnson P

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Mr. Charles Head of Cheatham County upon being named Middle Tennessee Outstanding Forage Producer for 2003 by the Tennessee Forage and Grasslands Council.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are pleased to specially recognize those astute farmers who consistently select the best methods and seek out new and improved strategies to raise their level of practice of the agricultural profession to new heights; and

WHEREAS, one such outstanding Tennessee farmer is Mr. Charles Head, owner of an 850-acre farm in northern Cheatham County, who was recently named the Middle Tennessee Outstanding Forage Producer for 2003 by the Tennessee Forage and Grasslands Council; and

WHEREAS, Charles Head produces Simmental and Angus-Simmental crossbreed beef cattle from a herd of brood cows; the Head family also grows approximately 50 acres of Dark-Fired and Burley tobacco, tobacco transplants, vegetables, and ornamentals on their family farm; and

WHEREAS, forages are a key element of the Head family farming operation; the majority of the farm acreage is dedicated to cool season perennial pastures and hay fields, with warm season grasses used for pasture and hay as well, when seasonally appropriate; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Head is well aware that top quality forage is required to put economical gains on his Simmental-Angus crossbreeds or any other breed, and seeks to maximize his forage by fertilizing all hay fields and pastures using processed sludge, which provides necessary lime and also nitrogen and other fertilizer value; he also selects forage crops appropriate to the season and strives for high protein levels; and

WHEREAS, Charles Head relies upon fescue for early and late season grazing, and, for the past three years, has sowed Oklahoma Red River Crabgrass for mid-summer grazing; his

cattle will stay on his 35 acres of crabgrass during hot and dry weather, and after the cows are pulled off, he cuts a late crop of hay from it; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Head sows annual ryegrass on his bare fall acreage, such as his tobacco acreage after the crop is harvested, and gets some fall grazing off it; in the spring, he fertilizes it and cuts about three tons of hay per acre off of it, just before crabgrass weather; and

WHEREAS, Charles Head maintains 40 to 50 acres of alfalfa in production, usually following a tobacco crop, to take advantage of the leftover phosphorus and potash in the soil; a stand of his alfalfa will produce for about five years; and

WHEREAS, recent testing of Mr. Head's hay showed 9 to 12 percent protein in fescue hay, 17 percent protein in second-cutting orchardgrass-clover, and 19 percent protein in alfalfa; he has learned that earlier cutting avoids protein loss in hay; and

WHEREAS, one of Richard and Hazel Head's family of successful children, Charles' brothers and sisters include Kenneth Head, Tennessee State Representative Tommy Head, University of Tennessee Lady Vol's coach Pat Head Summit, and Linda Atherby; he is proud of his children, Charles (Chuck), Jr. and Tracy Douglas; and

WHEREAS, long recognized by his peers as a top forage producer and on behalf of his expertise in raising beef cattle, Mr. Head has served as a leader on numerous agricultural and community organizations; he currently serves on the Robertson/Cheatham Farmer's Cooperative Board of Directors and on the USDA Farm Services Agency Board; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this legislative body pause to specially recognize the expertise of one of this State's top farmers; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Mr. Charles Head of Cheatham County upon being named the Middle Tennessee Outstanding Forage Producer for 2003 by the Tennessee Forage and Grasslands Council.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we offer him our best wishes for every success and happiness in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.